



EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

MAY 20 1996

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Fred Thompson
United States Senate
523 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

DOCKET FILE COPY

Dear Senator Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 1996, on behalf of your constituent, Claud Chellstorp, regarding the Commission's decision to freeze acceptance of paging applications. Mr. Chellstorp expresses concern that the suspension of processing of paging applications will adversely affect small businesses that provide paging services.

The Commission is currently conducting a rulemaking proceeding that proposes to transition from licensing paging frequencies on a transmitter-by-transmitter basis to a geographic licensing approach, using auctions to award licenses where there are mutually exclusive applications. In conjunction with that proceeding, the Commission initially froze processing of applications for paging frequencies. On April 23, 1996, the Commission released a First Report and Order in WT Docket 96-18 and PP Docket 93-253, which adopted interim measures governing the licensing of paging systems and partially lifted the interim freeze for incumbent paging licensees. For your convenience and information, enclosed is a copy of the Press Release concerning the First Report and Order, which includes a summary of the principal decisions made. Specifically, small and medium sized incumbent paging companies will be permitted to expand their service areas if the proposed new site is within 65 kilometers (40 miles) of an authorized and operating site. These interim rules will remain in effect until the Commission adopts final rules in the paging proceeding.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

David L. Furth
Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau

Enclosure

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FRED THOMPSON
TENNESSEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4204

April 30, 1996

PRB
PR-PAGING
2320

Ms. Judith L. Harris
Director
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
Room 808
Washington, DC 20554

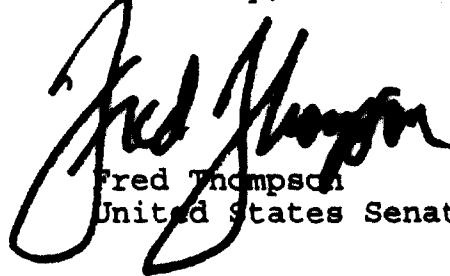
Dear Ms. Harris:

I have enclosed a letter from a constituent of mine, Mr. Claud Chellstorp, who is concerned about the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) decision to freeze new applications for paging licenses.

He believes that the freeze has a negative impact not only on many paging companies' efforts for expansion and modification, but also on the consumer. I ask that you consider his request for lifting the paging freeze as this issue is addressed. Furthermore, I was hoping you could respond to me and provide me with some information about the FCC's rationale for the freeze and any efforts that might be made to lift the freeze.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Sincerely,



Fred Thompson
United States Senator

FT:mjw

Enclosures

[REDACTED]

A-1 Paging, Inc.
611 East Carroll Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
(615) 393-2222

APR 11 4 1996

March 22, 1996

The Honorable Senator Fred Thompson
723 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Thompson:

I and other concerned colleagues in the paging industry have formed a Coalition for a Competitive Paging Industry to contest a freeze on paging applications imposed February 8, 1996 by the Federal Communications Commission. On February 28, 1996, we filed an Emergency Petition with the FCC for immediate withdrawal of the freeze.

We believe it is critical that the FCC understand the impact of the freeze on the highly competitive and previously thriving paging industry. For paging companies to be competitive, they must meet customer demands by expanding or modifying their existing systems. Because of the freeze, most paging company's plans for expansion or modification have come to a halt. However, nationwide carriers are exempted from the freeze which allows them to proceed forward and expand. Each additional day in which the freeze lasts means that we and other paging companies are suffering severe economic harm and that the public is deprived of new and expanded paging services.

I would very much appreciate your support in our efforts to persuade the FCC to lift its freeze on paging applications.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Claud A. Chellstorp



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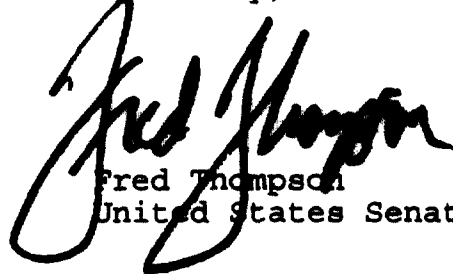
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